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*August 10, 2001*  
Date

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicants:** Neil Stahl, et al.  
**U.S. Serial No.:** 09/787,835 **Examiner:** Unknown  
**Filing Date:** March 22, 2001 **Group Art Unit:** Unknown  
**Title:** RECEPTOR BASED ANTAGONISTS, AND METHODS OF MAKING AND USING

August 10, 2001

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, DC 20231

SIR:

**SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This Second Preliminary Amendment is submitted in connection with the above-identified U.S. National Stage Patent Application. Prior to examination of the Application on the merits, please amend claims 1-10, 12, 15, and 16 and add new claims 26-28 as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fusion polypeptide that forms a multimer capable of binding a cytokine to form a nonfunctional complex, comprising:

a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a first fusion polypeptide component comprising the amino acid sequence of the cytokine binding portion of the extracellular domain of the specificity determining component of [the] a cytokine's receptor;